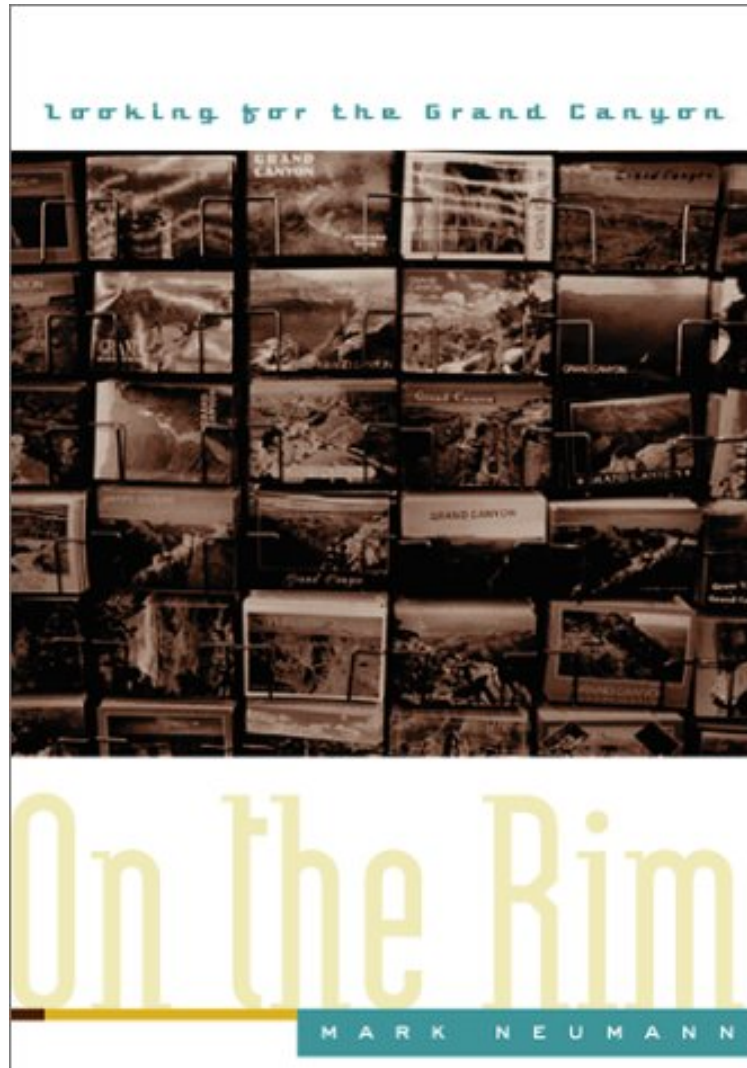


(Download ebook) On The Rim: Looking for the Grand Canyon

On The Rim: Looking for the Grand Canyon

Mark Neumann

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Mark Neumann : On The Rim: Looking for the Grand Canyon before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On The Rim: Looking for the Grand Canyon:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A gem in the field of American cultural studiesBy Robert DrewThis book is as grand in scope as the canyon itself, taking in ethnography, history, biography, and criticism. The thoroughness of Neumann's research, the sensitivity of his observations and the insight and wit of his language are reminiscent of the work of new journalist masters such as Gay Talese and Jane Kramer. Neumann brilliantly documents how "spectator culture" goes far back into U.S. history, into the receding zone of nostalgia that we look to for our origins. Also fascinating are his accounts of how the canyon has been framed by science and religion, and how

the canyon's developers staged it in the manner of a theater or museum. I especially appreciated Neumann's sensitive and thoughtful use of tourists' stories. It would have been easy to make fun of the canyon's tourists and to present them as the ultimate mass culture nightmare. Instead, Neumann prompts the reader to think about the popular logics and traditions that lie behind tourists' practices. Neumann concludes with a meditation on why people keep coming to the canyon through "the depths of time"--what they come looking for, what they think they can create or recover. It is a moving finale for this fine book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A must read for Canyon Lovers By G. P. Roberts Having traveled to the Grand Canyon many times during my life I am always taken in by its true greatness and wonder. This book goes beyond the countless picture books that have been published on the canyon by giving the reader some real insight. The author gives several different perspectives on the canyon that you are not likely to learn by just touring the canyon for a few hours. This book lets true Grand Canyon lovers experience the canyon in depth and make the reader eager to return and see it from a deeper perspective. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Entertaining and solid scholarship By A Customer On the Rim is a fascinating study of the power of the Grand Canyon in American Culture. The author's breadth of knowledge is impressive, pulling together elements of anthropology, history, philosophy, sociology and literary/artistic criticism. His scholarship is impeccable, but the strength of the book is his personal stories of the people he has met and his own encounters with the Canyon.

A captivating look at the Grand Canyon as scenic wonder, theme park, national icon, and refuge. Why do nearly five million people travel to the Grand Canyon each year? Mark Neumann answers this question with a book as compelling as the panoramic vistas of the canyon. In *On the Rim*, he describes how the Grand Canyon became an internationally renowned tourist attraction and cultural icon, and delves into the meanings the place holds for the individuals who live, work, and travel there. Weaving history, ethnography, documentary photography, and autobiography, Neumann exposes the roots--the personal and social dimensions--of America's pursuit of leisure. He shows how people visiting the Grand Canyon create their own experiences, even while they are affected by one hundred years of social history and cultural expectations. *On the Rim* examines the lines between progress and nostalgia, science and spirituality, nature and culture, authenticity and mass production, and work and leisure--all of which crisscross the tourist experience. To support his argument, Neumann uses evidence from tourist registers and Park Service records, first-person narratives, interviews, and scenes from television shows, Hollywood movies, and popular novels. Heavily illustrated with historical and contemporary photographs, the narrative shifts back and forth between early descriptions of the canyon and modern tourist stories, the past illuminating the present at every step. From Albert Einstein's visit and the hunt for the fugitive Danny Horning to the everyday experiences of local Native Americans, park rangers, and vacationing families, Neumann reminds us that every trip to the Grand Canyon is a complex journey, fueled by shared expectations but always open to the possibility of surprise. *On the Rim* is a multilayered, nuanced study of the place and its many visitors. Mark Neumann is associate professor in the Department of Communication at the University of South Florida.

From *Library Journal* This pair of books presents the literary equivalent of a contrast between an old master's painting and Pop Art. If you prefer your Grand Canyon serene and spectacular, then *Arizona Highways*'s production is the only choice. With a lyrical text by Childs and Ladd's staggeringly beautiful photographs, this coffee-table volume lends itself to leisurely perusal. Childs, a nature writer whose work has appeared in various magazines (*Arizona Highways*, *Audubon*, *Sierra*, *Backpacker*) holds a Master's degree in desert studies and spends nine months each year exploring and researching the wild country of Arizona and Utah. Ladd is a frequent contributor to *Arizona Highways* and has wandered and photographed the Grand Canyon since 1964. Their joint goal is "to describe what cannot be revealed through photographs...[and to photograph] what cannot be revealed in words." Neumann's (communications, Univ. of South Florida) book is the result of ten years of fascination with the canyon's multimillions of visitors. Although its introduction reads like a typical academic paper ("This book examines the Grand Canyon as an emergent and residual site for the production of the zones of a social imaginary that reflect and contain the geographical and temporal dislocations of contemporary life"), the book takes an upbeat turn as he interviews tourists, park rangers, area employees, and Native Americans. Neumann tosses in a modicum of history, and his black-and-white photos are interesting in that they document people rather than panoramas. Each book has its merits and each serves a different purpose and audience. Both are recommended for academic and larger public libraries. A Janet N. Ross, Washoe Cty. Lib. Sys., Sparks, NV Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.